

We have the pleasure to send you samples of the Ore before and after *calcination*, also of the Iron produced, and of the Lime-stone used in the experiment.—The latter was procured by us from Sylhet and is of excellent quality.

We are, Sir, &c. &c.

20th Sept. 1839.

JESSOP & CO.

P. S.—The following are the quantities of the materials expended ;—Ore 1220 lbs. Coke 1278 lbs. Lime-stone 744 lbs.—The experiment occupied about twenty-three hours.

ART. VII.—*Note on the habits of the Coel, and on the discovery of Isinglass.*—By MAJOR DAVIDSON.

*To the Secretary to the Asiatic Society.*

SIR,—Happening to stand in the veranda of my bungalow, a few days ago, I heard a loud chattering noise on the lawn; believing that a young crow had fallen from its nest I advanced to put it out of the reach of harm. Instead of a crow I was much astonished to find that an old crow was feeding a young bird of a dark brown colour, transversely striped with cinereous bars. On asking its name of a native who also saw it, he replied that it was a young Coel. I approached it within a few yards and saw it receive food from the crow's bill, in the usual supplicating posture, with extended wings, and body slightly quivering. The native informed me that the Coel never made a nest, but always took possession of that of a crow, by whose incubation, its eggs were hatched; and also, that the crow invariably continued to feed its adopted nestling, until it could shift for itself. From having seen this I can have no doubt of its truth. A few days ago the neighbouring mango topes, resounded with the plaintive notes of the Coel, but at present they are not to be heard from which I am inclined to believe, that like the Cuckoo it is a bird of passage. It is a curious coincidence that they should both rear their young by practising a similar imposition on other birds. Is this common to the genus?

Observing in your 87th number that Mr. M'Clelland states, that "The very valuable production, *Isinglass*, has been recently found "to be yielded by one of the fishes of the Hoogly."

I beg to mention that on the 18th of June, 1820, while residing at Sooltanpoor, Oude, in a bungalow on the banks of the Goomty, I addressed a letter to that eminent naturalist the late Major General Hardwicke, acquainting him that I was in the habit of opening every

large fish of the genus *Cyprinus* that was brought for sale, and extracting the air bladder, from which I made Isinglass. While residing at Calpee, on the Jumna, in 1832, I made a quantity large enough to fill the drawer of a writing desk, from every large fish such as *Rohoo*, *Kutla*, *Muhaseer*, and various others which were brought for sale. The weights of the pods varied according to the size of the fish, (which was never above forty pounds) from half a drachm to half an ounce. I rejected the fibrous and soaked the gelatinous coat in strong limewater for five or six days, (in the *cold* weather) when it was ready for use as Isinglass, and equal to any for sale. I am of opinion that the article may be found in every fish that rises to breathe, whether whale, grampus, porpoise, shark, &c.; that the quantity will depend on the size of the fish, and the quality be found nearly similar in all.

I am Sir, &c. &c.

S. C. DAVIDSON.

Allahabad, 15th Sept., 1839.

ART. VIII.—*Note on the Scapes of Xanthorhæa and Fossil Stems of Lepidodendra.*—By Lieut. N. VICARY.

*To the Secretary to the Asiatic Society.*

I have the pleasure to send you some remarks on the resemblance, existing between the stems of "*Xanthorhæa*;" a native of New South Wales, and the fossil stems of "*Lepidodendra*." It is an object of such great interest to trace any affinity between fossils and existing species, that I make no apology for obtruding my rough note upon you, and asking you to publish it.

*Xanthorhæa* belongs to the tribe *Asphodeleæ* and is well known in N. S. Wales under the name of "*Grass Tree*," the naked flower scapes rise to ten or twelve feet in height, from the bosom of a tuft of grass like leaves, and are used by the Aborigines as shafts for their spears, for which they are well suited from their lightness and strength; there are seven species described, some of which do not form a distinct stem, and others form a stem often eight or ten feet in height, and occasionally branched in an irregular manner, not symmetrical as in *Coniferæ*, from which in the fossil state, that alone would be sufficient to distinguish them—they have no true bark, but as in *Cycadeæ* an outer coat formed by the bases of the fallen leaves, the coat is from one to two inches in thickness, rough outside, but becoming smoother on the older parts, exhibiting the bases of the leaves, arranged in quin-